AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method for making an international payment from a source account in a first country to a local currency account in another, second country, comprising:

creating a payment instruction and a payment request that are associated with a common transaction request;

communicating the payment instruction <u>directly</u> to the local currency account in the second country;

wherein the payment instruction designates a beneficiary account in the second country for the local currency account to transfer currency to; and

<u>separately</u> communicating the payment request to a funds source associated with the source account; wherein:

in accordance with the payment request, funds are transferred from the ~~funds~~ source <u>account</u> to a treasury account if necessary to maintain a balance at the treasury account which is sufficient to cover an amount of the payment request, and funds at the treasury account are used to provide at least one of: (a) a payment to, and (b) a credit entry on behalf of, the local currency account in a currency of the second country.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the payment to the local currency account is provided by exchanging the funds at the treasury account for the currency of the second country, and transferring the exchanged funds to the local currency account.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the credit entry is provided by exchanging the funds at the treasury account for the

currency of the second country, and making a credit entry for the exchanged funds in a general

ledger on behalf of the local currency account.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the communicating of the payment instruction to the local currency account is

independent of the communicating of the payment request to the funds source.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the funds source draws from the source account.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the payment instruction identifies at least one of: a currency type of the first country, the

source account, and a type of financial product associated with the transaction request.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the payment instruction and the payment request are created via user inputs to a

computer-generated interface.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

validating transaction data associated with the payment instruction prior to

communicating the payment instruction to the local currency account.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining an exchange rate to offer to a user that creates the transaction request for

approval thereby prior to communicating the payment instruction to the local currency account;

wherein at least one of the providing of the payment to, and/or and credit entry on behalf

of, the local currency account, is responsive to the exchange rate.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein:

the user is enabled to create the transaction request using a computer system; and

the exchange rate is determined using data that is stored locally to the computer system.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein:

the user is enabled to create the transaction request using a computer system; and

the exchange rate is dynamically determined through an external foreign exchange information service.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

querying the funds source to determine if there are sufficient funds thereat to fund the payment request.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

debiting the source account according to the amount of the payment request.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the currency of the local currency account is transferred directly therefrom to the beneficiary account without passing through an intermediary financial institution.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the currency of the local currency account is transferred therefrom to the beneficiary account via at least one intermediary financial institution in the second country.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the local currency account comprises a Nostro account.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the payment is provided to the local currency account in lieu of providing the credit entry on behalf of the local currency account according to the amount of the payment request.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the payment is provided to the local currency account in lieu of providing the credit entry on behalf of the local currency account according to a risk profile associated with the payment request.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the funds from the funds source are transferred to the treasury account via a clearing account.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the payment instruction is communicated to the local currency account in the second country via a financial interchange network.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

enabling tracking of the transaction request by a user.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

enabling a user to create the transaction request using a browser compatible interface running on a computer system.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for making an international payment from a source account in a first country to a local currency account in another, second country, comprising:

means for creating a payment instruction and a payment request that are associated with a common transaction request;

means for directly communicating the payment instruction to the local currency account in the second country;

wherein the payment instruction designates a beneficiary account in the second country for the local currency account to transfer currency to; and

means for <u>separately</u> communicating the payment request to a funds source associated with the source account; wherein:

in accordance with the payment request, funds are transferred from the funds source to a treasury account if necessary to maintain a balance at the treasury account which is sufficient to cover an amount of the payment request, and funds at the treasury account are used to provide at least one of: (a) a payment to, and (b) a credit entry on behalf of, the local currency account in a currency of the second country.

24. (Currently Amended) A computerized system for making an international payment from a source account in a first country to a local currency account in another, second country, comprising:

a computerized system in the first country for creating a payment instruction and a payment request that are associated with a common transaction request, <u>directly</u> communicating the payment instruction to the local currency account in the second country, and <u>separately</u> communicating the payment request to a funds source associated with the source account; wherein:

the payment instruction designates a beneficiary account in the second country for the local currency account to transfer currency to; and

in accordance with the payment request, funds are transferred from t he funds source to a treasury account if necessary to maintain a balance at the treasury account which is sufficient to cover an amount of the payment request, and funds at the treasury account are used to provide at least one of: (a) a payment to, and (b) a credit entry on behalf of, the local currency account in a currency of the second country.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a customized international payment transaction user interface, comprising:

during an initialization access session of an international payment transaction system by a user, receiving, via a computerized user interface, information from a user for identifying the user and for identifying at least one account from which funds may be drawn when an international payment transaction is executed;

creating a record having the information for identifying the user and for identifying the at least one account; and

assigning an identifier ~~for~~ to the record; and

retrieving ~~to enable retrieval of~~ the record ~~for customizing~~ in order to customize the computerized user interface to enable the user to make an international payment transaction upon a subsequent access of the system by the user.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein:

the customized computerized user interface enables the user to make an international payment transaction without having to re-enter the information for identifying the at least one account.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

communicating with an institution at which the account is held to verify the at least one account.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

communicating with a credit-reporting bureau to obtain an indication of a credit worthiness of the user.